International and Domestic Prices of Petroleum Products

†3342. SHRI LAJPAT RAI:
SHRI RAJIV RANJAN SINGH 'LALAN' :

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that prices of petrol and diesel were increased in the country on the basis of high prices of crude oil in the international market whereas the prices of petroleum products such as Naphtha, Furnace oil, ATF, Benzene solutions were reduced;

(b) if so, the facts in this regard and changes brought in the prices of the said items; and

(c) the reasons for changing the said prices?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI SANTOSH GANGWAR): (a) to (c) With the dismantling of administered pricing mechanism (APM) in the petroleum sector effective 1st April 2002, the pricing of all petroleum products except for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG has been decontrolled. The oil companies are now fixing the prices of the petroleum products after taking into account the prevalent oil prices in the international market. In view of the reduction in the international oil prices after the recent developments in Iraq, the oil companies effected reduction in domestic prices of petrol, diesel, naphtha, furnace oil, ATF and benzene solutions. A comparison of the selling prices of these products in Mumbai as on 16.04.2003 with the prices on 16.03.2003 is given below:

(*Rs./litre*)

Price as On	Petrol	Diesel	Naphtha (Rs./kg)	Furnace oil	ATF	Benzene
16.4.03	37.52	26.70	18.87	13.50	23.41	38.27
16.03.03	38.59	27.88	26.29	16.01	24.22	41.28

†Original notice of the question was received in Hind